

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0193

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY UK TU

SUBJ: EVACUATION OF TURKISH CYPRIOT REFUGEES FROM BRITISH SBA

1. UK HIGH COMMISSION HEAD OF CHANCERY INFO TOLD ME THIS AFTER-

NOON (JANUARY 16) THAT CENSUS OF TURKISH CYPRIOT REFUGEES ON
EPISKOPIS SBA IS PROCEEDING ON SCHEDULE AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED
JANUARY 17 IN TIME TO DRAW UP PRIORITY LISTS. BRITISH HAVE
ASSURANCES THAT TURKS WILL PROVIDE CIVILIAN BOEING 727 AIRLINERS
BEGINNING JANUARY 18. FOR FIRST TWO OR THREE DAYS PACE OF EVAC-
UATION WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 300 PERSONS. THE BRITISH THEN WISH
TO SPEED UP TO MINIMUM OF 480 PERSONS FOR THE FLIGHT FROM AKRO-
TIRI-ADANA. HOWEVER, THEY BELIEVE TURKS ARE HAVING TROUBLE
MAKING SATISFACTORY RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS AT ADANA AND THAT PACE
IN EXCESS OF 480 PER DAY MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE. BRITISH WOULD PRE-
FER TO ACCELERATE TO 1,000 PER DAY IN ORDER TO COMPLETE EVACUATION
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IN MINIMUM TIME.

2. VIRTUALLY ALL TURKISH CYPRIOTS POLLED THUS FAR HAVE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO BE EVACUATED. BRITISH ARE MAKING CERTAIN THAT DOCUMENTATION IS PRECISE AND THAT ONLY THOSE REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN PROCESSED BY END OF CENSUS TOMORROW WILL BE EVACUATED. CYPRIOT NATIONAL GUARD AND NATIONAL POLICE HAVE SET UP TIGHT PERIMETER SECURITY AROUND EPISKOPI-AKROTIRI AND HAVE SLOWED INFLUX OF TURKISH-CYPRIOTS TO A TRICKLE. HOWEVER, DURING PAST WEEK MORE THAN 1,000 TURKISH CYPRIOTS MADE THEIR WAY ONTO BASE, ALMOST 500 DURING DAY PRECEDING SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES. THE BRITISH RECOGNIZE THAT THEY COULD FIND THEMSELVES MIRED DOWN IN YET ANOTHER EXPLOSIVE POLITICAL SITUATION SHOULD REMAINING TURK CYPRIOTS IN THE PAPHOS-TROODOS-LIMASSOL AREA ATTEMPT TO SET UP CAMP ON WSBA AFTER PRESENT GROUP OF 9,000 HAS BEEN EVACUATED. BRITISH MADE THIS VERY PLAIN IN REPRESENTATION BY HICOMER OLVER TO DENKTASH YESTERDAY. THEY HAVE LIKEWISE REQUESTED UNFICYP TO SPREAD THE WORD IN TURKISH-CYPRIOT VILLAGES THAT ANY TREK TO WSBA IN HOPE OF EVACAEION WILL BE FUTILE. UNFICYP HAS AGREED TO DO SO.

3. IN LATER CONVERSATION, FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES TOLD ME THAT GOC WAS "DISTURBED, DISPLEASED, AND ANNOYED" BY BRITISH ACTION. HE SAID HE WAS CALLING IN OLVER AT 1800 HOURS LOCAL (FOR SECOND TIME IN TWO DAYS) TO DELIVER "STRONG" NOTE VERBALE IN PROTEST. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID NOTE WOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH REGARD TO ACTION: (1) UK IS PREJUDICING OUTCOME OF POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CLERIDES AND DENKTASH, (2) IT IS TAKING STEPS IN VIOLATION OF BRITISH ROLE AS GUARANTOR POWER UNDER 1960 ZURICH AGREEMENT, (3) IT IS VIOLATING GOC'S SOVEREIGNTY BY IGNORING REPUBLIC'S LAWS ON PASSPORTS, CUSTOMS AND EXIT PERMISSION FROM CYPRUS AND (4) IT IS VIOLATING CYPRIOT AIRSPACE AND TERRITORIAL WATERS. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID BRITISH ARGUMENT THAT RELEASE OF REFUGEES MAY PROVOKE A COUNTERVAILING HUMANITARIAN GESTURE FROM THE TURKS WAS SPECIOUS REASONING; IN EFFECT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS HAVE HAD THEIR SOLE NEGOTIATING CARD REMOVED FROM THEIR HAND WHILE TURKISH GESTURE IS ONLY A HOPE -- WHICH NOW IS MORE DISTANT.

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